

REMARKS

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have cancelled claims 49-64, without prejudice, and have amended claims 34, 43 and 46 to further distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art. Applicants have also amended the title of the invention and the Abstract so as to address the objections noted in the Office Action.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Pham for the interview granted on February 17, 2005 during which it was agreed that the foregoing amendment to claims 34 and 43 would overcome the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of USP No. 5,597,756 to Fazan. As claims 34 and 43 are the only remaining independent claims pending in the application, it is respectfully submitted that these claims and all claims dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully requested.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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